

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. Also, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form and amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Finally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the proper format for an abstract of the disclosure. The abstract has been amended in this reply to conform it to proper format. Also, a minor amendment was made to the specification to properly address figures 6A and 6B, and 8A and 8B separately, rather than collectively as simply “figure 6” and “figure 8” respectively. Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests return of initialed page 2 of the PTO Form-1449 of the IDS filed August 13, 2002.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-13 were pending in this application. In this reply, claims 1-3 and 8-13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also, claims 4-7 have been amended to clarify the present invention. These amendments are fully supported by the original specification and are not made in view of prior art.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 4, 5, and 8/4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 8 has been cancelled in this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now

moot with respect to claim 8. Claim 4 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. In view of the amendment, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 4. Also, this rejection is now moot with respect to dependent claim 5 for the same reason.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 103

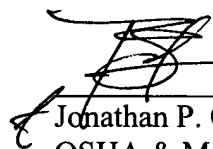
Claims 1-3, 8/(1-3, 6) and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,172,767 (hereinafter "Takemoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,542,031 (hereinafter "Douglass"). Claims 1-3 and 8-13 have been cancelled in this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783.015001).

Respectfully submitted,

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